

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A label-pasting method comprising the steps of:
feeding a label-material sheet, which is composed of only label material, from its roll and applying pressure-sensitive adhesive to the label-material sheet;
cutting out labels from the label-material sheet with pressure-sensitive adhesive;
and
pasting the cut-out labels on a packing sheet.

2. (Withdrawn) A label-pasting method as claimed in claim 1 characterized by the pressure-sensitive adhesive which is hot melt adhesive and applied to an area within the outline of, and smaller than, each label portion of the label-material sheet to be cut out in the next step.

3. (Currently Amended) A label-pasting device comprising:
an adhesive applier for applying pressure-sensitive adhesive to a label-material sheet composed of only label material;
a die ~~cuter~~ cutter for cutting out labels from the label-material sheet with pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
a label paster for pasting the cut-out labels on a packing sheet;
wherein the adhesive applier applies pressure-sensitive adhesive to an area within the outline of, and smaller than, each label portion of the label material sheet to be cut out by the die cutter.

4. (Currently Amended) A label-pasting device as claimed in claim 3 wherein:

the adhesive applier and the die cutter are synchronized;
~~the adhesive applier applies pressure-sensitive adhesive to an area within the outline of, and smaller than, each label portion of the label material sheet to be cut out by the die cutter; and~~
the pressure-sensitive adhesive is hot melt adhesive.

5. (Original) A label-pasting device as claimed in claim 3 wherein:
an anvil roller constituting the die cutter serves as the label paster too; and
the anvil roller is disposed so as to be rotatable in contact with a running surface of the packing sheet and provided with a vacuum mechanism which sucks each cut-out label onto the periphery of the anvil roller until said label is pasted on the packing sheet.

6. (Currently Amended) A label-pasting device as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 3 of which the label paster comprises:
said anvil roller which is separated from the said running surface of the packing sheet;
a conveying belt which is disposed between the anvil roller and the top surface of the packing sheet and carries each label received from the anvil roller in the running direction of the packing sheet; and
a pressing belt which is disposed on the downstream side of the conveying belt and presses each label onto the packing sheet.

7. (Original) A label-pasting device as claimed in claim 3 of which the label paster is a vacuum-belt unit disposed on the exit side of the die cutter, the vacuum-belt unit comprising:

a small-diameter roller disposed close to the exit of the die cutter;
a large-diameter roller which is disposed so as to be in contact with the packing sheet and provided with a vacuum mechanism; and
a vacuum belt which is laid around the small-diameter roller and the large-diameter roller and has many ventholes.

8. (Original) A label-pasting device as claimed in claim 7 wherein a pair of pressure rollers is disposed on the downstream side of the large-diameter roller to press each label onto the packing sheet.

9. (Withdrawn) A label-material sheet composed of only label material and having label portions arranged successively in its longitudinal direction.

10. (Withdrawn) A label-with hot melt adhesive applied to its back, the adhesive-applied area being within the outline of, and smaller than, the label.

11. (Withdrawn) Labels which are cut out from a label-material sheet composed of only label material while the label-material sheet is fed from its roll and hot melt adhesive is applied to an area of the back of each label portion of the label-material sheet, the area being within the outline of, and smaller than, said label portion.